

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6171

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, KS, JA, KN

SUBJ: KOREAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES POSSIBLE VISIT OF BONGO
TO TOKYO AND SEOUL

1. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CHANG-HOON KIM CALLED ON ME MARCH 1 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND GABON. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WELL AWARE THAT GOG PLANNING TO HAVE RESIDENT NORTH KOREAN MISSION ESTABLISHED IN LIBREVILLE AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE. FYI. PRESIDENT BONGO HAD ALSO MENTIONED THIS TO AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER AND MYSELF FEBRUARY 27. END FYI. IN ORDER TO KEEP GOG SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA IN UN, SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS TO HAVE BONGO VISIT SEOUL AND AMBASSADOR KIM FELT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT GOG DELAY RECEIVING NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN LIBREVILLE UNTIL AFTER BONGO HAD VISITED SEOUL.

2. INASMUCH AS SOUTH KOREANS REALIZE TRIP TO FAR EAST SOLELY FOR VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA UNREALISTIC, SOUTH KOREANS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE JAPANESE INVITE BONGO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREBY PERMITTING VISIT TO SEOUL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER VISIT TO TOKYO. SOUTH KOREANS HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH JAPANESE. ALTHOUGH LATTER UNDERSTAND PROBLEM AND SYMPATHETIC, JAPANESE TOLD SOUTH KOREANS THAT VERY HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITORS
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TO JAPAN THIS YEAR WOULD RENDER INVITAION TO BONGO DIFFICULT

DESPITE FACT JAPANESE AWARE THAT BONGO VERY ANXIOUS
TO VISIT JAPAN.

3. AMBASSADOR KIM ASKED ME IF I COULD RELAY TO WASHINGTON
IMPORTANCE OF BONGO VISIT TO SEOUL (PRIOR TO ARRIVAL NORTH
KOREANS IN LIBREVILLE) IN ORDER TO BOLSTER GOG SUPPORT
OF SOUTH KOREA IN UN. WITH THIS IN MIND, AMBASSADOR KIM
HOPED THAT USG WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROACH JAPANESE TO
URGE THEM TO EXTEND INVITATION TO BONGO FOR EVEN VERY
BRIEF VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE SO THAT BONGO COULD VISIT
SEOUL DURING SAME TRIP. AMBASSADOR KIM INDICATED THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT MAKING PARALLEL DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON AND
TOKYO BUT FELT MY RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE HELPFUL INASMUCH
AS I HAVE FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATION IN GABON.
I PROMISED AMBASSADOR KIM I WOULD RELAY HIS REQUEST TO
WASHINGTON.

4. AMBASSADOR KIM PLANNING TO INVITE GOG FONMIN
OKUMBA TO VISIT SEOUL IN MID-APRIL AND HOPES THIS
VISIT WILL PREPARE GROUND FOR LATER BONGO VISIT.
MCKESSON

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